

UNPACKING THE XANADU®* BOX

* "Xanadu" is a registered trade mark, and a service mark, of Project Xanadu, 3020 Bridgeway #295, Sausalito CA 94965.

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From 1967 to 1979, I personally held the Xanadu trademark. From 1979 to 1992, the trademark was assigned to software being developed by XOC, Inc. In our most opulent period, from 1988 to 1992, XOC was a subsidiary of Autodesk, Inc. This arrangement was a business fiasco that did not result in salable software.**

** Roger Gregory and Keith Henson of XOC say that the XOC software has finally-- as of recent weeks-- reached Beta condition, and want it seriously tested.

In 1992 I got the Xanadu trademark back. This means that "Xanadu" now means whatever I choose. But in fact "Xanadu" has always been an exact and sweeping paradigm, very different from the thinking of the rest of the computer field.

I am still certain that ours is the correct paradigm, toward which everyone else is groping as if blindfolded. Xanadu was *always a unified solution to all the parallel problems* of:
•hypermedia •editing of already-linked materials •electronic publishing •copyright •royalty payment •re-use and republication. •editing complex nonlinear structures •CASE.

The software we planned at XOC was a bundled, unified service intended to be far more than the current World Wide Web, which implements about a quarter of our ideas. The XOC software was designed to do the following:

Hypermedia servers (the term "server" did not exist when we started)
Hypermedia browsers (the term "browser" did not exist when we started)
EXTERNAL, APPLICATIVE LINKS, WHICH ANYONE CAN MAKE,
between arbitrary structures and noncontiguous subsets
FULL TEXT EDITING WITH LINKS REMAINING IN PLACE
TRANSLUSION (HYPERSHARING).*** This handles many vital aspects of the system: versioning, re-use, copyright. *ALL COPIES AND INSTANCES BEHAVE AS IF THEY ARE MANIFESTATIONS OF A SINGLE COSMIC ORIGINAL. Operationally: 1. A link placed on any part of any manifestation is on the same part in all manifestations. 2. Different manifestations may be seen side by side by side. 3. All deliveries are as if from the original; thus material sold is always sold out of that original.*

* Transclusion should be understood as a different model of data identity. We could say that transclusion is an *identic relation*, like "copy" and "instance," for managing identities among content materials. But it is different from copy and instance, with unique properties and advantages.

The right of all users to recombine and republish all copyrighted material as clip art-- if published by the Xanadu method, virtually and transclusively.

Automatic royalty on all materials, which remain copyrighted, from both original documents and transcluded versions.

I am now unpacking the old Xanadu designs and putting as much as possible into the public domain, especially:

the forthcoming Open Standard for Xanastructure;
the Transcopyright doctrine.